

London 10 August 1820

My dear family, A kind of pen and Ink-phobia took possession of me when I was in the West of England & so completely indisposed my mind & hand for writing that I would do it wherever I could, and with Quills & Dews I was more agreeably fitted than with Quills. - I am now returned to my old post and my old occupation of looking over ^{part} Masses of Papers the major ^{part} of which are only read to be refused - Though I am now so fully engaged with sedentary Employment & the pen is seldom out of my hand yet it is now far more easy to write letters. - But I feel afraid that in a little time the Ink-mess of too much mental exertion will again increase so as to disorder my Health.

I cannot get the plan adopted of having a partner for our Retail Trade, nor an Assistant, to relieve me from the undeviating Exhaustion of my Town life - It says he cannot afford to lose any of the Income he now receives. - We have just taken another Apprentice on his trial, but that rather adds to than diminishes my cares. - In your letters you need not advert to this Subject - but when or next if not before I think we must endeavour to devise a plan whereby my literary labours may be made capable of being undertaken with less injury to my Health. - If I could live elsewhere than a good walk or Ride

here for what might be deemed the Principal part of my daily
Occupation, and then return to Dunstable & cooperative
Solutions I could employ the remainder of the Evening much
more to the Advantage of our Cause than I now do, and is
also perhaps completing some of those Designs which torment
me now with continual Endeavours to forward them with
Success. When I was in Wilts. R. Falkner hinted at the
Situation of his younger Brother Richd. who is at present in the
Park Walk, but the Responsibility of his place is too great for
his Health, and evidently left it to me to propose that he
should fill the place here which I described as being so great
a Consideration with me. I must have some conference with
H. on the Subject. - But sometimes I think it would be worth
James Omer's acceptance, especially if he was to be in
partnership also with Miller, and throw into the Fund of
the Retail Profits whatever he derived from that Source. - He
is very much broken down in constitution & I fear will be
compelled to relinquish his Principal altogether. - Poor Tyson.
you have seen him, the young man who was deficient in the
hand; he is dead of Consumption. It was only the Day but
one before I left Town that he called on me to say goodbye
to say that 2 Days after he was going briefly into Essex
- On that Day fortnight that he set off from London he died
- I saw a rapid sinking I thought, and wished him to have
other Advice than Dr. Powell's, who protested that he had no
consumptive Symptoms, but he would not allow himself to

don't D. O. who had known him from his Infancy. He was not quite 23. I have just been looking over many of his MSS to see what materials they afford for a Review of his & Reason; but though they consist of 5 perfect Plays (Tragedies) and many small Poems I conceive it will be better for his Fame & more interest not to publish any of them. His great work on the different Governments of the world is unfortunately incomplete but so much is written & I may say printed that we must have it finished. I think of employing Cleland about it, but perhaps you are not acquainted with his name. — Keats also has been very dangerously ill having broken a Blood-vessel, but he is now so far recovered as to be in no immediate Danger: Darling however says that he must go to Rome in the middle of the following month, for fear of a better life.

I am glad you like the poems, & particularly like the one you have said of them. They do not sell very well, but I rather think the Edinburgh Review will give them a lift, & that the Quarterly may do. Upon the strength of this we must rest our defence for advocating him so much as will carry him to Rome & back again, for he has no one else to look to, now his Brother George has borrowed all his remaining money, & taken it to America.

It would be far more agreeable to my feelings to write to you before I receive Mr. G's money, but in the meantime we are very short of cash, & it is for the next 2 months that we shall principally want his assistance. I cannot tell when I shall be in London for Hapray means first to go westward, & I believe his chief reason for delaying to go is because he does not like to leave

to the management of our finances. If you are comfortably off perhaps
you can spare something till I see you in the country — Can you give me
any particulars of Phoebe Bowen or Board of Antislavery — any anecd-
dotes true or false? Reynolds wants to say something about her in

Mr. James Taylor
Messrs. Johnson & Taylor
Bakerwell
Derbyshire



Baldwin's Magazine: if you can I wish thanks you to send it soon
— I, you have had a visit from the Hunt Family. I ought to have written
to tell you they were coming. Give my best love to Dea, Hannah & Mary
if with you yet. I am sorry I cannot get away earlier from Town —
I sent your letter to William Foxe thinking it would suit best.
Don't you like Lord John Russell's? Ever most affectionately I am
Yours Dear Son
S. May.